

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148200

E.O.11652 GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 146145

CARACAS FOR USDEL LOS

1. ISRAELI MINISTER-COUNSELOR SHALEV CALLED ATHERTON
LATE JULY 8, ONCE AGAIN, TO REITERATE THE ISRAELI POSITION
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AND STRONGLY URGE THE U.S. TO WORK AND VOTE AGAINST PLO

PARTICIPATION. HE TOLD ATHERTON THAT ADMISSION OF THE PLO TO THE CONFERENCE WOULD VIOLATE THE UN RESOLUTION ON THE CONFERENCE. THIS RESOLUTION DETAILED WHO WOULD BE INVITED, AND THE PLO WAS NOT INCLUDED. SHALEV THEN WENT ON TO POINT OUT SEVERAL PLO VIOLATIONS OF LOS: A) ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI TANKER, CORAL SEA, IN 1971, B) SINKING OF GREEK CRUISE SHIP IN BEIRUT HARBOR BECAUSE IT WAS EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL, AND C) PIRATING OF GREEK SHIP AT KARACHI FOR TAKING OF HOSTAGES TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF TWO TERRORISTS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ATHENS. SHALEV TOLD ATHERTON THAT A U.S. ABSTENTION WOULD SET A BAD PRECEDENT, AND REITERATED HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STRONGLY URGE THE U.S. TO WORK AND VOTE AGAINST PLO PARTICIPATION.

2. ATHERTON TOLD SHALEV JULY 9 THAT WE HAD REVIEWED THE INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. DELEGATION IN LIGHT OF HIS NEW APPROACH. WE HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT WE HAD TO STICK TO PRESENT POSITION. ATHERTON REITERATED WE WOULD DISASSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM DECISION ON PLO AND MAKE STATEMENT REFTEL. IN ADDITION, IN LIGHT OF SHALEV'S APPROACH, WE WOULD ALSO STATE THAT CONFERENCE DECISION ON PLO DOES NOT IN OUR VIEW PREJUDICE POSITION OF PARTICIPANTS WITH RESPECT TO THIS QUESTION, THUS MAKING CLEAR THAT SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED DECISION DOES NOT ACCORD PLO RECOGNITION. ATHERTON NOTED THAT THIS STATEMENT IS MORE THAN WE MADE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. SHALEV RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN U.S. POSITION. ATHERTON SAID HE WAS SORRY WE AND ISRAEL HAD NOT REACHED FULL AGREEMENT, BUT EACH OF US HAD TO WEIGH ITS DECISION IN LIGHT OF CONSIDERATIONS PECULIAR TO IT. KISSINGER

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